



# NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER PHIL ANGELIDES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Tuesday, December 8, 2004

**CONTACT:** Dan Newman  
916.653.4052

## **CALIFORNIA TREASURER ANGELIDES URGES GOVERNOR TO PROTECT PATIENTS**

*Slams Schwarzenegger's Comment that Nurses are "angry because I kick their butts everyday"*

SACRAMENTO, CA – California State Treasurer today decried the Governor's continued refusal to implement nurse staffing ratios which protect patients, while California hospitals are facing a critical shortage of nurses.

"Despite research showing that improving nurse-to-patient ratios saves lives, Governor Schwarzenegger continues to endanger patients by blocking the staffing reforms," said Angelides.

"The Governor's willingness to listen to special interests, while ignoring patients and nurses will cost lives. It's common sense – when nurses are overburdened with too many patients, it is difficult to provide the care and attention necessary to protect patients. None of us want to see a family member unable to receive the highest level of care due to the current nursing shortage."

After a study revealed that California had the country's 2<sup>nd</sup> worst ratio of hospital nurses per patients, reforms were passed to guarantee a maximum of five patients per nurse in medical and surgical units. The Governor blocked the reforms, and his decision is being lauded in misleading television ads about the issue, paid for by the California Healthcare Association.

"The Governor doesn't get it – we should be training more nurses instead of cutting nurse-to-patient ratios. The Governor is taking us in the wrong direction," said Angelides.

Angelides also criticized Schwarzenegger's mischaracterization of nurses as "special interests" and the Governor's remarks that nurses "are just angry because I kick their butts everyday."

"Instead of protecting patients, the Governor has resorted to name-calling and bullying," said Angelides. "These nurses are on the front-lines protecting our families at critical moments. They deserve our admiration, gratitude and support, yet the Governor offers only ridicule."

# # #